**New Library Building: Frequently Asked Questions**

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**Updated: December 13, 2024**

# Overview of the Project

* The current location of the library is not ADA accessible, has deteriorating infrastructure, and lacks space both for collections and programming, as well as lack of parking.
* The conversation about a new library began as early as 2010, with assessment of the building, but serious strides to making it a reality began in 2018.
* Having put on hold the project due to availability of alternative properties, the library board approached the village about applying for a Flexible Facilities Grant, using the existing plans for the Mills St/HWY 27 location. It was agreed to be a “no brainer” to apply. We were awarded the majority cost of our building project on October 7th. This grant does not cover bringing in the highspeed internet line required, grant writing, audits, moving expenses, maintenance needs, and general upkeep.

# Why is being ADA Accessible such a big deal?

The library has been non-compliant with the ADA (the Americans with Disabilities Act) for over 30 years. Services are hindered not just to folks in wheelchairs, but also those who have other mobility issues. 30% of the population is over the age of 65, and the most likely affected. Our current space is also not friendly to those with autism, light and sound sensitivities, vision impairment, etc. Our new building will be fully compliant, and we will always strive to serve every member of the community.

# How will pedestrian and road traffic around the new location at such a busy intersection be addressed?

We recognize traffic and safety concerns. We are in contact with the Department of Transportation. We hope to conduct a traffic study to increase the safety. Between some safety additions and policies from both the school and library, we anticipate a safe passage for community members. We also heartily encourage use of the existing tunnels under HWY 27.

# Why is it important to plan for the library’s “future” beyond this new building?

Nothing is forever. Cadott is a growing community, and it won’t be long before the “New Library” will just be “the library.” It’s important to plan for expected, and unexpected, maintenance.

The greatest benefit to the library as a new construction is that our concept was created for maximum flexibility. Libraries have changed significantly in the 58 years we have called Main Street home, and we can specifically build to the criteria of a modern and speculated future library.

# How is this project going to be funded?

We launched this project as a “grassroots” initiative. To that end, we had our first pledged donor of $100,000 approach us in 2022. We have also taken in several generous memorial and general donations since. These funds have helped us to pay our architecture firm for their preliminary work on a feasibility study and initial concept designs. They also allowed us to hire the firm’s grant writers for a substantial opportunity we couldn’t pass up.

On October 7th, 2024, we were one of 35 recipients of the DEHCR Flexible Facilities Grant. This will cover the majority of our project, from building, to furnishings, to technology additions. We anticipate continuing to fundraise for the sustainability of the grant needs and our personal “stretch goals,” or additions to our collections and services beyond the FFG’s coverage.

# Can these grant dollars be used for other projects in the village besides the library?

No. The funds are specifically for the construction of a library building, using the plans and estimates from our grant writer and design team at Cedar Corporation.

# What’s the price tag on this project?

The granted amount is $3,747,710. This is a slight increase from our initial projections, due to rising costs and the necessary technological updates for the core stipulations of the grant. We do anticipate doing further fundraising for stretch goals and sustainability to grant criteria. A better ballpark figure on all costs at the time of a grand opening being closer to $4 million.

# Where can I find out more about the grant and what it covers?

You can visit the DEHCR website here: <https://energyandhousing.wi.gov/Pages/AgencyResources/FlexibleFacilities.aspx> or read the full press release: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/WIGOV/bulletins/3ba7e99>

# Why are you still fundraising?

When it comes to the building itself, there are still costs that could not be included in the grant award. That includes the laying of a high-speed internet line on the lot, grant writing, audits, moving expenses, etc. There is also the matter of sustaining the grant needs beyond the grant period.

It is also prudent to have additional funds in the case of the unforeseen. The library is not a business; we do not generate reliable income. We operate almost entirely on dollars from the Village of Cadott, Chippewa County, and other county appropriations. We are also lucky enough to have an Endowment fund, an active Friends of the Library organization, and generous donors to supplement our budget. Our continued fundraising for stretch goals for our future home, will ensure that the library is not just a place where people find books or entertainment, but where people can actively improve their lives.

# How are the stipulations for the grant going to change library services?

Ultimately, we hope this grant will improve and increase our services. Factors for this grant included access to highspeed internet, updated technology, and health initiative capabilities such as telehealth visits. To this end, the library will have computers with virtual meeting tech in our meeting/study rooms. We will also continue to have 4 patron-use desktop computers available.

Some examples of things we hope to do with our new multi-purpose space include immunization clinics, circulating blood pressure cuffs, WIC info sessions, and more. Our meeting room would be perfect for babysitter or First Aid classes and our study room great for remote therapy sessions, private discussions with a medical care team, or one-on-one trainings and tutorials.

# What can the library offer that they didn’t have before?

Our new building will offer 3 reservable rooms. The largest will primarily be used for library and local events and programs with a capacity of over 100 people. The two smaller rooms, one for groups of 12 or less and the other for 1-3, can be utilized for telehealth visitation, remote job interviews, online class lectures, studying, and so forth. The library itself will be able to host and promote more workforce initiative programs like Job Fairs or Small Business socials. We are also hoping to partner with healthcare providers to promote wellness with opportunities often seen at Senior Centers, like Good Foot Clinics, Blood Pressure monitoring, and dietician visits, just as an example.

Beyond this, we will also have the space for an increased collection of materials (beyond just books). With our new space, we’ll be able to increase our games, kits, and other “Library of Things” collections. But yes –we’ll be able to house a LOT more books too!

# What are Stretch Goals and…what are yours?

“Stretch Goal” may be a familiar term for those who participate in crowdfunding campaigns. We’ve met our primary goal. Hooray! But…we could do more, right? So, we’ve created a fundraising goal of $500,000 to cover our sustainability and costs beyond the grant coverage.

Some of the goals we’re considering as part of our talking points with donors are a sublimation printer, heat press, poster printer, sewing machines, 3D Printer, LEGO kits, crafting kits, small kitchen appliances, a washer and dryer unit, tool kits, and adaptive furniture. Some of these items would circulate as part of our collection, while others would be available to use at low or no cost to community members inside of the library and during special events.

# **Who is the library working with to accomplish this project?**

We are working with the architectural firm, Cedar Corporation. They also work with the village board on many of the village’s infrastructure projects. As of this update, we have not opened bidding for the construction.

# Are my taxes going to go up because of this project?

No. The grant is federal money that was distributed to the states. This is not a loan and there is no “paying it back.” As for the property itself, it was already owned by the village.

# Can the new Multipurpose Programming Room be used as Senior Center?

Many elements of a traditional Senior Center can (and will) be replicated in our new space! Possible examples being Yoga classes, Foot Care clinics, Blood Pressure checks, etc. While we won’t be putting “Senior Center” on the door, we recognize the need for a place to find resources in this demographic of the community. We’re going to do our best to bridge the divide.

# What’s the timeline for this project?

January – July 2026: Capital Campaign Drive  
May/June 2025: Groundbreaking (Must happen by July 1st)  
July 2025-July 2026: Construction:

August 2025: Move-In Date TBA  
September 2026: Grand Opening Celebration & 70th Anniversary.

# What will happen to the old library building?

The current building on Main Street is owned by Village of Cadott. They will have the purview of what happens to the building after it is vacated.

# Who can use the reservable rooms?

We have 3 reservable rooms. The Multipurpose Room (MPR) (<100, Study Room A (<12), and Study Room B (<3). Individuals 18+ can reserve the MPR and Room A. Ages 13+ may reserve Room B. The MPR may only be used for events that are free and open to the public, and may not be used for commercial purposes, except as sponsored by the Friends the Cadott Library or the Library itself. The rooms may also not be used for purely social purposes (such as private parties). For the full policy, see our website: <http://cadottlibrary.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/Meeting-Room-Policy-62023.docx>

# Who oversees this project and how do I contact them?

This project is headed by the Cadott library trustees and library director. Katherine (Cookie) Kaste is the Chair of the project. Our library director, Samma Johnson, is also available to answer questions.

Contact can be made by calling 715-289-4950 or e-mailing [cadottpl@cadottlibrary.org](mailto:cadottpl@cadottlibrary.org).

# How can I help with this project?

Depends on how you wish to help! If you want to donate, you can send checks to the library: P.O. Box 68, Cadott, WI 54727 (Payable to the Village of Cadott; please put Building Project in the Memo line!)

If you wish to be part of the decision-making process and help out as a member of a subcommittee (Awareness or Capital Campaign), attend a meeting. See our calendar for details.

If you want to donate time or skills, consider joining the Friends of the Cadott Community Library. Information about the organization is on our website: <http://www.cadottlibrary.org/friends>